

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

## FOR SENIORS

### ► CHOICES PROGRAM

The CHOICES Program provides information to persons age 60 and older. Currently, CHOICES is assisting seniors who need help enrolling in Medicare Part D.  
1-800-994-9422



## JOB RESOURCES

### ► WHERE TO TURN WHEN UNEMPLOYED

The United Way of Connecticut has produced a document titled "Where to Turn in Connecticut When You Become Unemployed." It contains information regarding unemployment insurance, medical benefits, legal assistance and help with job searches and money management. Contact my office at 1-800-842-1420 to receive this helpful publication.

### ► CTWORKS CAREER CENTERS

Two regional Career Centers are located in our area to provide guidance and services to those seeking employment. **Danielson:** 860-412-7000; **Willimantic:** 860-465-2120

## RESOURCES FOR FORECLOSURE RELIEF

### ► STATE FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM

The Connecticut Judicial Branch provides foreclosure mediation in order to help homeowners and lenders reach a mutually agreeable resolution that aims to avoid home foreclosure. For more information, visit the Judicial Branch's Foreclosure Mediation Program Web site.  
[www.jud.ct.gov/foreclosure](http://www.jud.ct.gov/foreclosure)



## ENERGY ASSISTANCE & CONSERVATION

### ► SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

**Choose Your Electric Supplier**—The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by 10 percent. 1-877-947-3873 or [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com)

**Home Energy Solutions**—This program helps customers reduce their bills by making their homes more energy-efficient.  
1-877-947-3873

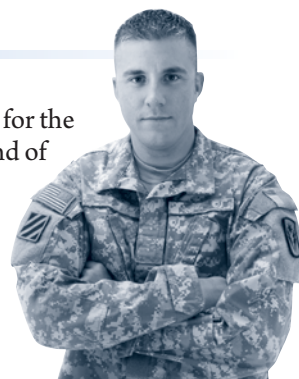
**Helping With Payments**—Programs are available to help customers reduce or eliminate their past-due balances. 1-800-286-2828



## FOR VETERANS

### ► THE MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND

This fund provides grants in times of financial hardship for the immediate families of active-duty military personnel and of National Guard and Reserve members who have been mobilized for service in the Global War on Terror.  
1-860-524-4968



Dear Neighbor:

These are unprecedented times for families and businesses. This fall, in a special session, I reached out to legislators on both sides of the aisle—we put aside partisan differences and passed a critical and comprehensive Jobs Bill.

The legislation will help create thousands of jobs by reducing red tape, cutting taxes for small businesses and investing in training and education.

Together, we're working to strengthen Connecticut's economy, balance the budget and show Washington that cooperation doesn't have to be a bad word.

This newsletter details some of the initiatives we've taken to help our economy and improve our quality of life. Do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Williams, Jr.  
State Senator

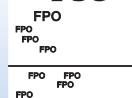
## Stay Informed in a "Green" Way



Sign-up to receive my e-mail newsletter. It's a paperless way for me to communicate with my constituents about timely issues that impact our communities and our state. To sign up, visit:  
[www.SenatorWilliams.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorWilliams.cga.ct.gov)



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## Fighting for Jobs & the Economy

State Senator

# Donald E. Williams, Jr.

Legislative Office Building, Room 3300  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
[www.SenatorWilliams.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorWilliams.cga.ct.gov)  
1-800-842-1420

Representing

Brooklyn

Canterbury

Killingly

Mansfield

Putnam

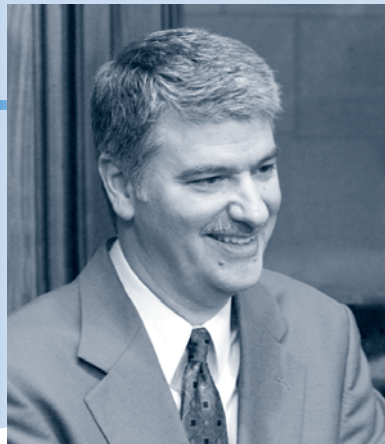
Scotland

Thompson

& Windham

WINTER 2011





STATE  
SENATOR

# Donald E. Williams, Jr.

Serving Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Mansfield, Putnam, Scotland, Thompson & Windham

WINTER 2011

## FOR OUR STATE & OUR COMMUNITY

### GROWING JOBS

**J**obs and the economy is the number one issue facing our state today. This fall, I worked with Governor Malloy and my legislative colleagues to prove that in Connecticut it's still possible for Republicans and Democrats to work together to grow jobs.

I proposed and passed legislation creating the **Main Street Investment Fund** to improve commercial centers in smaller towns and promote locally owned businesses on our Main Streets, targeting towns with populations under 30,000. Here's a summary of the jobs legislation:

**SMALL-BUSINESS GROWTH**—*Helping small businesses to expand and create jobs by leveling the playing field and reducing taxes for small businesses.*

- ▶ Cut the business entity tax in half by reducing the annual \$250 fee to a single biennial payment.
- ▶ Streamlined and increased existing tax credits for new hires, the unemployed, veterans and the disabled.
- ▶ Provided funds for small businesses to expand, as most banks aren't lending.
- ▶ Created a Small Business Express Package—a rapid response program for investment in business growth, hiring and working capital that includes revolving loans, forgivable loans and matching grants.
- ▶ Created a program to develop unused state-owned land for agriculture and to reimburse farmers for reclaiming pastures.

#### MAKING GOVERNMENT

**MORE ACCESSIBLE**—*Cutting red tape and reducing burdens.*

- ▶ Increased government efficiency by streamlining processes and eliminating or consolidating excessive regulations.
- ▶ Expanded Connecticut Innovations by building innovation centers in key towns to connect entrepreneurs with mentors, talent, support, ideas, services and capital. Also launched Startup Connecticut to get new businesses on a path to success.



#### DEVELOPING OUR WORKFORCE

- ▶ Develop and enhance educational offerings to match employer needs, with a focus on manufacturing.
- ▶ Recruit students for vo-tech, agricultural science and tech education by promoting their benefits with middle school parents and local boards of education.

The national economy remains fragile, but we took big steps this year to move Connecticut's economy forward.

### Creating a World-Class Technology Center at UCONN in Storrs

I was pleased to propose and win support for a world-class research and technology center near UConn's main campus in Storrs. The facility is expected to generate thousands of jobs right here in northeastern Connecticut, and help local towns attract cutting-edge companies interested in locating near UConn and markets in Providence, Worcester and Boston. The technology center will help attract top engineering faculty, students and companies to northeastern Connecticut, which in turn will benefit the entire state.

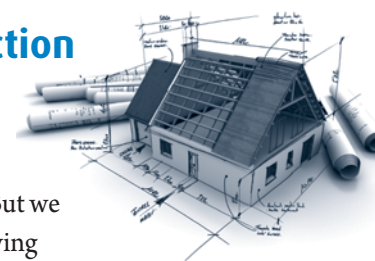


### Investing in the Future of Medicine

As America's population ages, health care becomes more important for our own well-being as well as our economy. That's why we're rebuilding and expanding the UConn Health Center and Medical School. This project will create at least 16,000 high-quality jobs, attract millions of dollars in research grants and improve access to health care for families across Connecticut.

### Cutting the Red Tape in Construction

Since the global recession, new home-building has slowed to a crawl. So what do developers do when they have a new home site approved, but the clock is ticking on the permit? Before, they were out of luck. But we listened to homebuilders' concerns and are now allowing developers more time to complete certain ongoing projects without seeking permit re-approvals from land use commissions or inland wetlands agencies.



### Making Cuts While Protecting Municipal Aid

Connecticut's two-year budget includes more than \$1 billion in spending cuts and \$1.6 billion in labor concessions from state employees. At the same time, the budget protects state levels of municipal aid, which helps our local towns hold down property taxes. The towns in northeastern Connecticut receive a higher percentage of state aid and education dollars than most other areas of the state because of our lower income levels. That's why I fought hard to protect funding for **Brooklyn, Canterbury, Killingly, Mansfield, Putnam, Scotland, Thompson and Windham.**



With poet Gabrielle Calvocoressi (center) and Canterbury First Selectman Brian Sear (left) at the Prudence Crandall Museum in Canterbury during the Freedom's Journey poetry event.



### Learning From Two Extreme Storms

Northeastern Connecticut was hard hit by two extraordinary storms nine weeks apart. As Hurricane Irene approached, I called our local officials together to prepare for regional cooperation. Luckily, there were no deaths or serious injuries in our local towns, but lengthy power outages led to serious questions about CL&P's readiness and ability to respond to a crisis. In a series of post-storm hearings, we listened to suggestions from the public and local officials. CL&P's performance is being audited and action will be taken by the legislature at our next session to address their failures.



Kelly Trivella of Brooklyn tells me about her invention: the self-server cell phone menu ordering app, at the 2011 Invention Convention at the State Capitol in Hartford. Young inventors displayed their genius to legislators in the lead-up to their state convention at the University of Connecticut that was held in May.